

BILLS PENDING IN THE 114TH CONGRESS RELATED TO WESTERN DROUGHT ISSUES

LAST UPDATED ON JUNE 1, 2015

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsor	Cosponsor	Introduction	Last Action	Status	Summary
<a href="#">H.R. 1710</a>	Drought Resilience Investment Act of 2015	Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA-9)	3	3/26/15	3/26/15	Referred to the House Committee's on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce	Provides additional financing options for water infrastructure projects carried out in States in which the Governor of the State has issued a state of drought emergency declaration.
<a href="#">H.R. 1709</a>	To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risks of drought to drinking water, and for other purposes	Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA-9)	5	3/26/15	3/27/15	Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy	Requires the EPA to develop and submit to Congress within 90 days of enactment a strategic plan for assessing and managing the risks of drought to drinking water provided by public water systems.
<a href="#">H.R. 1668</a>	Save Our Water Act of 2015	Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA-4)	1	3/26/15	4/22/15	Sponsor Introductory Remarks on the Measure	Amends the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide for suspension of application of the Act to water releases by Federal and State agencies in river basins that are affected by drought.
<a href="#">H.R. 695</a>	Healthy Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2015	Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO-3)	15	2/3/15	3/16/15	Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands	To address the bark beetle epidemic, drought, deteriorating forest health conditions, and high risk of wildfires on National Forest System land and land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management by expanding authorities established in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to provide emergency measures for high-risk areas identified by such States.
<a href="#">H.R. 291</a>	Water in the 21st Century Act of 2015	Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA-32)	29	1/13/15	3/2/15	Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans	(Companion bill to S. 176). (1) The bill establishes within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a WaterSense program to identify, label, and promote water efficient products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services. The bill establishes a program to provide financial incentives for consumers to purchase and install products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services labeled under the WaterSense program. The EPA would be required to make grants to owners or operators of water systems to address any ongoing or forecasted impact of climate change on a region's water quality or quantity. The Department of the Interior may: 1- provide financial assistance to water projects in specified states, including projects for water recycling, water infrastructure, enhanced energy efficiency, desalination, and water storage and conveyance; and 2 - transfer to nonfederal entities title to any reclamation projects or facility in need of rehabilitation that are authorized before enactment of this Act. (2) The U.S. Geological Survey must establish an open water data system to advance the availability, timely distribution, and widespread use of water data and information for water management, education, research, assessment, and monitoring purposes. (3) This bill reauthorizes through FY2020 the Water Desalination Act of 1996 and water resources research and technology institutes under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984. (4) After receiving a request from a nonfederal sponsor, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must review the operation of a reservoir and, if appropriate, update the water control manual to incorporate improved weather and runoff forecasting methods. (5) The EPA is required to develop voluntary national drought resilience guidelines relating to preparedness planning and investments for water users and providers. (6) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must prepare a salmon drought plan for California.
<a href="#">H.R. 1099</a>	Hunter and Farmer Protection Act of 2015	Rep. Eric Crawford (R-AR-1)	3	2/26/15	3/23/15	Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands	(Companion bill to S. 595). The bill would protect farmers from federal penalties levied under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act if they are following best practices provided by their state cooperative extension office. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the government has the authority to regulate hunting seasons for some protected species and prohibit certain actions in the interest of preserving those species. The bill was introduced as a result of farmers in Arkansas being fined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for rolling their fields during hunting season after needing to harvest crops early because of a regional drought. Farmers were advised by the local cooperative extension offices to roll their fields to restore nutrients to the soil. This legislation would ensure farmers who follow the best practices established by their state cooperative extension offices are not then subject to fines from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
<a href="#">H.R. 1278</a>	Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2015	Rep Lois Capps (D-CA-24)	12	3/4/15	3/23/15	Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.	(Companion bill to S. 741). Establishes the Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program within the EPA. The Program would make awards to owners or operator of water systems for the purpose of increasing the resiliency or adaptability of the systems to any ongoing or forecasted changes to the hydrologic conditions of a region of the United States. Funds would be exclusively to assist in the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation or maintenance of a program or project that meets the purposes of increasing the resiliency or adaptability of a water system.

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<a href="#">H.R. 1060</a>	Sacramento Valley Water Storage and Restoration Act of 2015	Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-1)	3	2/25/15	5/19/15	Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans	Directs the Department of the Interior to: (1) finalize and publish in the Federal Register the feasibility study authorized in the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, for enlargement of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir in Contra Costa County, California; (2) work with the Department of Commerce, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency, by June 30, 2015, to coordinate the efforts of the relevant agencies and work with the state of California, the Sites Project Authority, and other stakeholders to complete and issue the final joint environmental impact statement and report on the Sites Project (the Sites Reservoir in Glenn and Colusa Counties, California, and related facilities, including associated water conveyance and hydropower generation and transmission facilities); and (3) enter into agreements with the Authority to carry out such work as the Bureau and the Authority mutually agree is appropriate to ensure that all studies and environmental reviews are completed on an expeditious basis and that the shortest applicable process under the National Environmental Policy Act is utilized, including in the completion of the final feasibility study and final joint environmental impact statement and report on the Sites Project. The bill amends the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act to: (1) authorize construction of the Sites Reservoir in Colusa County if Interior determines that the project is feasible; and (2) direct the Bureau, at the Authority's request, to enter into a project partnership agreement for the Authority to provide full project management control for construction of the Sites Project, or a separable element of the Project, in accordance with plans approved by Interior. The bill authorizes and directs: (1) the Bureau to advance the Sites Project as a non-federal project if the Bureau determines and Interior concurs that the Project can be expedited by the Authority as a non-federal project and that there is a demonstrable federal interest for the Project to be constructed and operated as a non-federal project, and (2) Interior to execute and implement a long-term agreement with the Authority for the coordination of operations of the Central Valley Project and the Sites Project. Lastly, the bill directs the Bureau to: (1) be the lead federal agency for the purposes of all federal reviews, analyses, opinions, statements, permits, licenses, or other approvals or decisions required under federal law to allow either the Bureau or the Authority to construct the Sites Project; and (2) take such steps as necessary to ensure that all such reviews, approvals, or decisions required to construct the Sites Project are completed on an expeditious basis and utilize the shortest applicable process.
<a href="#">H.R. 813</a>	FORECAST Act	Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-2)	11	2/9/15	2/10/15	Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment	Requires the Secretary of the Army to review operation of a reservoir, including the water control manual and rule curves, using improved weather forecasts and run-off forecasting methods, including the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction System of the National Weather Service and the Hydrometeorology Testbed program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Requires the Secretary to determine if a change in operations will improve core functions of the Army Corps of Engineers, including: (1) reducing risks to human life, public safety, and property; (2) reducing the need for future disaster relief; (3) improving local water storage capability and reliability in coordination with the nonfederal sponsor and other water users; (4) restoring, protecting, or mitigating the impacts of a water resources development project on the environment; or (5) improving fish species habitat or population within the boundaries and downstream of a water resources project. Requires that if the Secretary determines the review improves one or more core functions of the Corps at a reservoir, the Secretary shall incorporate such changes in its operation and update the water control manual.
<a href="#">H.R. 796</a>	To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of the south Sacramento County Agriculture and Habitat Lands Water Recycling Project in Sacramento County, California	Rep. Doris Matsui	2	2/5/15	3/16/15	Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans	Amends the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Department of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of, and land acquisition for, a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater in Sacramento County, California. Requires the project to consist of three phases, the first of which shall include the planning, design, and construction of water conveyance and related infrastructure to provide recycled water to irrigate approximately 4,500 acres of land in southern Sacramento County.

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<a href="#">H.R. 2227</a>	Strengthening the Resiliency of Our Nation on the Ground Act of 2015	Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)	19	5/1/15	5/4/15	Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment	The bill aims to minimize the economic and social costs resulting from losses of life, property, well-being, business activity, and economic growth associate with extreme weather events by ensuring that the United States is more resilient to the impacts of extreme weather events in the short- and long-term. Part of the bill establishes a working group headed by the Department of Homeland Security, which is tasked with conducting a gap and overlap analysis of Federal agencies' current and planned activities related to achieving short- and long-term resilience to extreme weather and its impacts on the Nation, such as storm surge, flooding, drought, and wildfires.

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<a href="#">S. 176</a>	<a href="#">Water in the 21st Century Act of 2015</a>	Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	2	1/13/15	1/13/15	Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works	(Companion bill to H.R. 291). (1) The bill establishes within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a WaterSense program to identify, label, and promote water efficient products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services. The bill establishes a program to provide financial incentives for consumers to purchase and install products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services labeled under the WaterSense program. The EPA would be required to make grants to owners or operators of water systems to address any ongoing or forecasted impact of climate change on a region's water quality or quantity. The Department of the Interior may: 1- provide financial assistance to water projects in specified states, including projects for water recycling, water infrastructure, enhanced energy efficiency, desalination, and water storage and conveyance; and 2 - transfer to nonfederal entities title to any reclamation projects or facility in need of rehabilitation that are authorized before enactment of this Act. (2) The U.S. Geological Survey must establish an open water data system to advance the availability, timely distribution, and widespread use of water data and information for water management, education, research, assessment, and monitoring purposes. (3) This bill reauthorizes through FY2020 the Water Desalination Act of 1996 and water resources research and technology institutes under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984. (4) After receiving a request from a nonfederal sponsor, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must review the operation of a reservoir and, if appropriate, update the water control manual to incorporate improved weather and runoff forecasting methods. (5) The EPA is required to develop voluntary national drought resilience guidelines relating to preparedness planning and investments for water users and providers. (6) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must prepare a salmon drought plan for California.
<a href="#">S. 595</a>	<a href="#">Hunter and Farmer Protection Act of 2015</a>	Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)	2	2/26/15	2/26/15	Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works	(Companion bill to H.R. 1099).The bill would protect farmers from federal penalties levied under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act if they are following best practices provided by their state cooperative extension office. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the government has the authority to regulate hunting seasons for some protected species and prohibit certain actions in the interest of preserving those species. The bill was introduced as a result of farmers in Arkansas being fined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for rolling their fields during hunting season after needing to harvest crops early because of a regional drought. Farmers were advised by the local cooperative extension offices to roll their fields to restore nutrients to the soil. This legislation would ensure farmers who follow the best practices established by their state cooperative extension offices are not then subject to fines from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
<a href="#">S. 659</a>	<a href="#">Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015</a>	Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK)	0	3/4/15	3/17/15	Hearing held in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife	(Related to S. 405). Among other purposes to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, Section 5 would protect farmers from federal penalties levied under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act if they are following best practices provided by their state cooperative extension office (like H.R. 1099 and S. 595).
<a href="#">S. 405</a>	<a href="#">Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015</a>	Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	21	2/5/15	2/9/15	Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 15.	(Related to S. 659). Among other purposes to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, Section 104 would protect farmers from federal penalties levied under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act if they are following best practices provided by their state cooperative extension office (like H.R. 1099 and S. 595).
<a href="#">S. 132</a>	<a href="#">Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2015</a>	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)	1	1/8/15	1/8/15	Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Among other purposes to improve timber management on Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant land, the bill specifically requires to the Secretary of the Interior to maintain, restore, or improvement conditions of tree density, tree composition, and tree size distribution that will result in a stand with a high level of resistance and resilience to uncharacteristic wildfires, droughts, and insect events in the Dry Forestry Emphasis Area as labeled on the map "O and C Land Grant Act of 2014: Forestry Emphasis Areas" dated November 3, 2014.
<a href="#">S. 133</a>	<a href="#">Klamath Basin Water Recovery and Economic Restoration Act of 2015</a>	Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)	3	1/8/15	1/8/15	Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	To approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin.

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<a href="#">S. 741</a>	<a href="#">Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2015</a>	Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)	2	3/16/15	3/16/15	Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works	(Companion bill to H.R. 1278). Establishes the Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program within the EPA. The Program would make awards to owners or operator of water systems for the purpose of increasing the resiliency or adaptability of the systems to any ongoing or forecasted changes to the hydrologic conditions of a region of the United States. Funds would be exclusively to assist in the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation or maintenance of a program or project that meets the purposes of increasing the resiliency or adaptability of a water system.
<a href="#">S. 886</a>	<a href="#">Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Act of 2015</a>	Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM)	0	3/26/15	3/26/15	Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Establishes the Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Pilot Program in the Department of Interior. Under this program, utilities, municipalities, water districts and any other authority that provides water, wastewater, or water reuse services would be eligible for grants that demonstrate novel and innovative technology-based energy efficiency water projects.
<a href="#">S. 1100</a>	<a href="#">Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2015</a>	Sen. John Thune (R-SD)	0	4/27/15	4/27/15	Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	The bill requires state and local government approval of prescribed burns on Federal land during drought or fire danger.
<a href="#">S. 1331</a>	<a href="#">Seasonal Forecasting Improvement Act of 2015</a>	Sen. John Thune (R-SD)	1	5/13/15	5/20/15	Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of substitute favorability	Aims to enhance commerce through improved seasonal forecasts. The bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to determine and provide information on how the forecasted conditions for seasonal temperature and precipitation may impact "the number and severity of droughts, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, heat waves, or other relevant natural disasters."